

COUNTRY

TOP SECRET Military Information from the Koenigsbrueck Training Area

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EVALUATION [] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED [] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [] DATE PREPARED 29 August 1952

REFERENCES [] 25X1

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

REFERENCE

1. In mid-June 1952, while in the Koenigsbrueck training area (N 52/A 31), [] the 19th Tank Div was still located west and northwest of Schwepnitz. A tank unit from Dresden and Grimma was located next to this division. The 8th Tank Div, of which only the 21st Tank Regt was seen, was adjacent to the south. This regiment was located at the point where the troop training grounds bordered the road. Farther south was the artillery unit from Eilenburg which was equipped with 152-mm model 30 field howitzers. Adjoining it to the south was the tank unit from Kamenz and a tank unit from Dresden-Klotzsche. The 9th Tank Regt of the 11th Tank Div was also located there.

[] A motorized infantry division was west of Schmorkau. Motorcycle riflemen and SP guns which [] belonged to the infantry division were also in the area. The area of Schmorkau was occupied by a battalion wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets which performed patrol duty at the training grounds. Between 1,200 and 1,500 uniformed and armed women serving in a unit under the command of male officers were stationed in the area of Schwepnitz. Other Soviet women belonging to various units also were at the training grounds. (1) The hospital unit previously located in Lahmann's Sanatorium in Dresden was transferred to the main hospital under Colonel Arkov (fnu) as chief physician who was on leave in June. Lieutenant Colonel Khalashnik (fnu) was chief physician of the transferred hospital unit. (2) [] the tank unit from Kamenz was scheduled to stay at the troop training grounds during the winter because the barracks installations in Kamenz were to be made available to the Volkspolizei. (3) Other units scheduled to remain at the troop training grounds included, for example, the main hospital. An army order decreed that unless old motor vehicles were in perfect condition, they were not to be used. Checks on motor vehicles were made continuously and severe punishments were meted out if the order was not complied with. Previously soldiers were discharged and returned home after

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three and a half years of service in Germany, but an army order in July suspended all discharges. (4) A large-scale field exercise involving all officers and soldiers up to the rank of colonel was held on 14 and 15 July. The soldiers carried full field pack. No large exercises were held prior to 29 July. [redacted] preparations for a large exercise were under way and that the hospital had detached medical personnel for this exercise. An M 31 rocket launcher battery firing in the direction of the troop training grounds was seen on the Schmorkau-Koenigsbrueck road in late June. [redacted] an engineer unit was entrained in Schwepnitz on 22 July. [redacted] only equipment was still stored at the railroad station on the following day. (5) General Havrinenko (fnu) [redacted]

[redacted] was seen almost daily after mid-June. He came from Dresden and inspected troop units. General Chumak (fnu), [redacted] was also frequently seen [redacted] however, was unable to determine the general's assignment. (6) Motor vehicles [redacted] belonged to the artillery unit in Eilenburg. Motor vehicles [redacted] towed light AA guns. Motor vehicles [redacted] towed 37-mm AA guns.

2. Prior to 31 July, the Nachrichtenschule in Koenigsbrueck was occupied by about 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Drill at squad and platoon level and athletic training was conducted during the period from 22 to 31 July. On 24 July, about 300 soldiers organized into groups of 20 to 30 men drilled at the Aue training area which was blocked off all day long. Officers standing in groups watched the training. On 25 July, two telephone construction squads totalling 18 soldiers were seen laying light underground field cables. On 28 July, eight officers stood beside an aiming circle. Between 350 and 400 soldiers practiced firing in the Aue training area on 29 July. The training was witnessed by groups of about 20 officers. (C)

3. The Altes Lager was still used as a fuel depot and had a [redacted] or detail of about 30 soldiers. Trucks [redacted] were seen at the depot.

4. No changes in the occupation of the Neues Lager were observed prior to 31 July. The approach roads were still blocked. Soldiers were seen wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. [redacted]

5. On 23 July, 6 sedans and 15 trucks without markings were loaded on a train at the Koenigsbrueck railroad station. The train faced in the direction of Dresden. At about 10:30 p.m. on 26 July, a train carrying about 200 soldiers, 4 x 76.2-mm AA guns, 2 searchlights, equipment and trucks was seen leaving the Koenigsbrueck railroad station in the direction of Senftenberg. On 25 July, a train with about 30 soldiers wearing blackbordered black epaulets, 3 unnumbered trucks loaded with equipment and 12 pontoons, about 1.5 meters

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long, was seen at the Klotzsche railroad station. (5)

6. The wooden towers west of Schwepnitz which had been removed were reconstructed in late July. Only individual tanks engaged in driving practice were seen during the day at the Koenigsbrueck troop training area during the period from 27 July to 1 August. Infantry attack at company level was seen being practiced on 29 and 31 July. The problem included penetration followed by entrenching and defense preparation. Artillery firing practices were held during the night on 27 and 28 July. Motor vehicles

_____ were seen in Koenigsbrueck.

_____ (10) _____

the barracks installation in Kamenz which was half occupied by Soviet troops would soon be vacated and occupied by Volkspolizei air personnel. He was told that the Soviet unit would allegedly move to either Meissen or Dresden. (3)

Comments.

- (1) _____ 25X1

report furnishes a picture which, to some extent, gives the approximate location of components of the 8th Gds Mecz Div and 11th Gds Tank Div in the east section of the troop training grounds. Accordingly, the location with troop designations corrected, is as follows:

19th Gds Mecz Regt/8th Gds Mecz Div in a woods camp, 1 km westnorthwest of Schwepnitz;

11th Gds Tank Regt/8th Gds Mecz Div adjoining to the south, 1 km west of Schwepnitz;

21st Gds Mecz Regt/8th Gds Mecz Div adjoining to the south in a hutment on the Schwepnitz-Schmorkau road, 1 km southwest of Schwepnitz;

350(?)th How Arty Regt/8th Gds Mecz Div between the Schwepnitz-Schmorkau road and General Mueller pond;

15th Gds Tank Regt/11th Gds Tank Div adjoining to the south, and along the Schwepnitz-Schmorkau road;

10th Gds Tank Regt/11th Gds Tank Div adjoining to the southwest, and south of the General Mueller pond;

9th Gds Mtrcl Bn/11th Gds Tank Div apparently in the same area;

27th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt/11th Gds Tank Div in a hutment just west of Schmorkau; the motorcycle riflemen and SP guns probably belong to this regiment.

an ICB Battalion in Schmorkau.

The more than 1,000 women located in a camp near Schwepnitz probably were concentrated there for disciplinary reasons.

- (2) In April 1952, the main hospital was transferred from Grimma to Schmorkau. Chief physician Colonel Arkov (fnu) is known as chief physician _____ 25X1

- (3) _____ the barracks installation of the 15th Gds Tank Regt of the 11th Gds Tank Div in Kamenz was half occupied by Volkspolizei. _____

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- (4) No trains with recruits have been seen since late July 1952.
- (5) The engineer units of the 1st Gds Necz Army were previously carried in the area of Muehlberg. It is possible that these components may have returned to their divisions or posts. Similar indications are also available for other armies, although the training at the special training grounds on the Elbe River was apparently terminated at the same time.
- (6) P.D. Govorunenko, General Lieutenant (Major General) of the Armored Command, was commander-in-chief of the First Gds Necz Army, according to available information. Brigadier General of the Artillery, K.M. Chumak, has been known since 1944. He is possibly the deputy for the artillery with the headquarters of the First Gds Necz Army.
- (7) [REDACTED]
- (8) The Nachrichtenschule is apparently still occupied by the 270th Gds Mort Regt of the 11th Gds Tank Div.
- (9) The bulk of the 4th Gds AAA Div is still carried in Neues Lager. Components had been in Tustrow in July.

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